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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

8 AUGUST 2016

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Francisco—FBI Chief Calls for National Talk over Encryption vs. Safety

(U) The FBI's director said on 5 August that the agency is collecting data to present next year in hopes of sparking a national conversation about law enforcement's increasing inability to access encrypted electronic devices. Speaking Friday at the American Bar Association annual conference in San Francisco, James Comey said the agency was unable to access 650 of 5,000 electronic devices investigators attempted to search over the last 10 months. He said the problem is only going to get worse without a discussion about the technology.

SOURCE: 6 August 2016, [Associated Press](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Georgia—Delta Airlines Ground Flights after Worldwide System Failure

(U) Atlanta—Tens of thousands of Delta passengers around the world were stranded today after a power outage at its Atlanta headquarters caused a global computer failure that halted all flights. Check-in systems, airport screens and even the airline's website and smartphone apps were affected by the meltdown, which began at 11:38 p.m. last night (local time) and lasted more than six hours. The cause of the power outage was not immediately known.

SOURCE: 8 August 2016, [CNBC](#)

(U) Texas—Laptop Used to Reprogram, Steal More Than 100 Cars

(U) Houston—Two men jailed in Houston and accused of using pirated computer software to steal more than 100 vehicles may have exploited an electronic vulnerability to advance auto theft into high-tech crime. The men allegedly used a laptop computer to reprogram the electronic security of the targeted vehicles—mainly new Jeep and Dodge makes—so that their own key worked. Fiat Chrysler and police are investigating how the thieves got access to the computerized database of codes.

SOURCE: 6 June 2016, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan—ISIL Militants Claim Capture of US Weapons

(U) Kabul—Militants linked to Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) have released photos that purport to show weapons and equipment that belonged to American soldiers and were captured by the group in eastern Afghanistan. The photos show an American portable rocket launcher, radio, grenades and other gear not commonly used by Afghan troops, as well as close up views of identification cards for a US Army soldier, who is safe and accounted for. The website that published the photos speculated that the equipment and weapons were left behind during an operation with Afghan forces, but American officials are still trying to determine exactly when and how it was lost.

SOURCE: 7 August 2016, [Reuters](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) Afghanistan—Two Professors at American University Abducted**

(U) Kabul—Two professors with the American University of Afghanistan, one American and one Australian, were kidnapped by gunpoint in the Afghan capital over the weekend, according to officials. Gunmen wearing uniforms of the Afghan security forces smashed the vehicle used by the professors, and forced them out of the car. The US State Department said it was aware of reports that a US citizen had been seized, but did not comment further.

SOURCE: 7 August 2016, [BBC News](#)

(U) Belgium—Two Policewomen Wounded in Machete Attack

(U) Brussels—A machete-wielding man shouting "Allahu akbar" wounded two policewomen in southern Belgium on 6 August before being shot dead, in what appeared to be the latest in a string of attacks in Europe. The attack outside the main police station in the city of Charleroi left one of the policewomen with "deep wounds to the face" while the other was slightly injured. Though the assailant "hasn't been identified yet," according to Prime Minister Charles Michel, ISIL has already claimed the attack.

SOURCE: 8 August 2016, [AFP](#)

(U) Hong Kong—Bitcoin Exchange Customers Lose 36% of Their Money after Hack

(U) Hong Kong—Bitfinex, the Hong Kong-based exchange platform, was shut down last week after 119,756 bitcoins, worth more than \$65 million based on exchange rates at the time, were stolen from some users' accounts. Bitfinex said it decided "after much thought, analysis and consultations" to generalize the losses across all users. That means even people who weren't affected by the hack will find that 36% of the value of their accounts will be replaced by a "token" labeled BFX. The company said it will work to compensate the accounts in the future.

SOURCE: 8 August 2016, [CNN Money](#)

(U) Iran—Nuclear Scientist Executed for 'Spying for US'

(U) Tehran—An Iranian nuclear scientist who once claimed he was kidnapped by the CIA has been executed after being accused of spying for the United States. Shahram Amiri, who disappeared in 2009 during a religious pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, had returned to Tehran after going to Iran's interest section at the embassy of Pakistan in Washington and stating that he was kidnapped by American intelligence operatives. US officials at the time said Amiri had defected voluntarily and provided "useful information to the United States."

SOURCE: 23 June 2016, [CNN](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Texas—Parents Used 19-Month Old to Smuggle Meth into US**

(U) Brownsville—Two parents were jailed on federal drug charges after authorities allege they tried using their 19-month-old child to help smuggle methamphetamine from Mexico into the US. Officials say they found seven pounds of meth hidden on the body of the mother and the child as they attempted to cross the Gateway International Bridge into Brownsville, Texas. The parents are being held without bond.

SOURCE: 7 August 2016, [Associated Press](#)

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